

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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A method, system and computer readable storage medium for  
executing a set of tasks. The method includes selecting  
5 an incomplete task in the set and then either starting  
its execution (if it was not previously suspended) or  
resuming its execution (if it was previously suspended).  
An execution timer is also started. If the selected task  
completes before expiry of the execution timer, the  
10 selection process is reinitiated; otherwise, the selected  
task is suspended, and the selection process is  
reinitiated. In this way, processing of a lengthy or  
lower-priority task can be pre-empted by processing of a  
shorter or higher-priority task. The method may also  
15 involve recognizing that a new version of an existing  
task already in the task set has been added thereto. In  
such a case, the older version is removed from the task  
set even if it is not yet complete.